

Under utilisation of funds under ARWSP in Orissa

2003. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government of Orissa is not able to utilize the Central Assistance under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) because the State could not provide 25% matching share for replacement of defunct and damaged tubewells and shallow tubewells in cyclone and flood affected areas of Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA):

Central Assistance under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) is provided to the States, *Inter-alia*, for coverage of rural habitations with drinking water supply facilities. The States are required to provide matching share under the State sector Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) in rural water supply activities. As per the information furnished by the Government of Orissa, they have utilized an amount of Rs. 3262.38 lakh out of an amount of Rs. 7663.75 lakh of the ARWSP funds available with them during 1999-2000. Likewise, the expenditure reported under the State sector MNP during 1999-2000 in respect of Orissa is Rs. 4467.06 lakh out of a provision of Rs. 6111.21 lakhs made under MNP for drinking water supply activities. States can utilise upto 15% of the funds released every year under the ARWSP for operation and maintenance of assets created, subject to ceiling of matching grant under the State sector MNP.

Closure of Orissa Textile Mills

2004. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Orissa Textile Mills (OTM) has been closed down;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have any proposal to revive that textile mill; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) The Orissa Textile Mills (OTM) has not been closed down. However, the production activities of the Mills have stopped from 22.3.2000 on account of acute shortage of working capital and severe damage due to super cyclone.

The State Government of Orissa had invested Rs. 28.66 crores. Further, they are likely to sanction Rs. 7 crores for the Ways and Means Advance account to facilitate early re-starting the production in the mill.

Readymade Garments Sector

†2005. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

DR. D. MASTHAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to State:

(a) whether Government have constituted a Minister level Committee to identify the possibilities to keep the readymade garments sector out of the reserved list;

(b) if so, the Ministers included in the said Committee and whether it is also a fact that his ministry has agreed to keep the readymade garments sector out of the reserved list; and

(c) if so, by when Government are likely to get the Committee's report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) The Government have constituted a Group of Ministers to formulate an integrated and balanced package of policy measures necessary to strengthen the SSI sector, particularly in the context of the dismantling of QRs and the consequent increase of international competition and to consider and evolve a road map for selective de-reservation in respect of certain products including readymade garments, presently reserved for the SSI sector, as may be considered necessary for enabling a phased and orderly transition

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.